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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/058,335	04/10/1998	GOPAL DATTARAY HEGDE	PMS238256	7360

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EXAMINER

LEE, CHI HO A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2663

12

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/058,335

Applicant(s)

HEGDE, GOPAL DATTARAY 

Examiner

Andrew Lee

Art Unit

2663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 and 27-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 25, 27 and 28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20, 22-24, 29-36, 39, 40 and 43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 21, 37, 38, 41, 42 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2663

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-20, 22-24, 29-36, 39, 40, 43 and 44 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hoffman et al U.S. Patent Number 6,094,435.

Re Claims 1 and 44, fig. 3 teaches the Forwarding memory 40 (a flow table having a plurality of records); switch module 36 coupled to ports 38a~n and 40, wherein 36 comprises forwarding logic (means for forwarding) (See col. 9, lines 9 +) for bridging/routing packets from devices in LAN 18 (first, second, third and fourth hosts) coupled to the ports according to layer 2 addresses and/or layer 3 addresses.

Re Claims 2, 11, 32, refer to Claim 1, wherein the forwarding memory 40 is implemented with a hashing function (means for hashing) performed on layer 2 & 3 addresses for bridging/routing the packets for the plurality of hosts wherein the addresses are identified by the class logic 60 in accordance with the ARP protocol (See col. 13, lines 20 +).

Re Claims 4, 18, 31, 39, refer to Claim 1, the searching and filtering the packet also includes layer 4 information that utilizes a socket number for IP addresses in the packet.

Re Claims 5, 7, 13, 20, 32, 33, 36, 40, refer to Claims 1 and 2, wherein the forwarding logic coupled to processor 32 (CPU; means for receiving) determines (means for alerting) whether there is a match for the receive packet and if there is not a match, performs a learning by placing/creating an entry in the 40 (See col. 4, lines 11 +).

Re Claims 6, 22, 23, fig. 3 is a ASIC.

Re Claim 8-10, 24, 29, 43, refer to Claim 1, wherein the hosts can be coupled to same LAN or different LAN coupled to the switching module (See figs. 1-2).

Re Claims 12, 19, 30, fig. 3 teaches the Processor 32 coupled to 36 and 40 for processing the ARP records for the 40.

Re Claim 14, refer to Claim 1, wherein the system of fig. 3 supports IP.

Re Claims 15, 35, refer to Claim 1, wherein fig. 3 supports layer 2 for LAN standards and IP is inherently layer 3.

Re Claims 16, 17, refer claim 2, it is inherent that the ARP forwarding table to include plurality of ARP records.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20, 22-24, 29-36, 39, 40, 43 and 44 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 21, 37, 38, 41, 42 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In combination with claims 11 and 18-21, prior art fails to teach the CPU linking the first and third address resolution hash records with first and third address resolution, in response to the first message.

5. Claims 25, 27, 28 are allowed.


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Lee whose telephone number is 703-305-1500. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30AM to 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau Nguyen can be reached on 703-308-5340. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2663

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AI
5/3/04


ANDY LEE
PATENT EXAMINER